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a difference in JIS-C hardness between the surface and the center of the solid core is equal to or less than 5.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,129,640 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,213,896. Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer which disclaims the terminal part of any patent issuing from the present application. However, the submission of the terminal disclaimer is not intended as an admission that the claims of the patent application applied by the Examiner are substantively sufficient to support the Examiner's rejection. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the double patenting rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The abstract stands objected to for having more than 150 words. Applicant has amended the abstract so that it now contains 146 words. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection to the abstract be reconsidered and withdrawn.

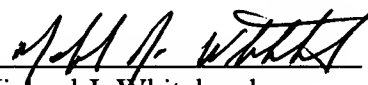
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/776,663

Attorney Docket No.: Q63008

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 15, 2002

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

The abstract is changed as follows:

A multi-piece solid golf ball includes a solid core, at least one intermediate layer ~~for~~ covering the solid core, and a cover having at least one cover layer ~~for covering the intermediate layer~~. The solid core has a compression deflection of 3.0 mm or more, the intermediate layer is mainly made from a thermoplastic resin and has a Shore D hardness of 45 to 55 and a specific gravity of 1.2 or less, and the cover has a Shore D hardness of 60 or more and a thickness of 1.6 to 2.3 mm. The golf ball ~~is further specified such that~~ comprises a ratio of the compression deflection of a sphere composed of the solid core covered with the intermediate layer to the compression deflection of the solid core is more than 0.900 and less than 0.970; and a difference in JIS-C hardness (~~specified under JIS K6301-1996~~) between the surface and the center of the solid core is equal to or less than 5.